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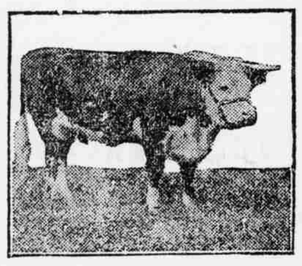
LIVE STOCK

STEER RETARDED IN GROWTH

Stunting an Animal as Result of Insufficient Food May Be Only Temporary Condition.

Live stock products are the result of growth. By far the largest part of increase in animals is the result of growth. The younger the animals the greater the growth impulse. Many factors influence the tendency of an animal to grow. Among these are age, condition, gestation, lactation and the quantity and quality of food. A given amount of food will produce more growth on a young animal than on the same animal at a later age. All the growth factors influence the young animal much more powerfully than older animals.

If an animal's food supply is insufficient for normal growth, the animal may be retarded in growth. If this



Well-Fed Hereford.

treatment is continued for a long time the animal may become permanently stunted.

Stunting an animal as the result of insufficient food may be only a temporary condition. An animal does not lose its capacity to grow as the result of stunting. F. B. Mumford, dean of the Missouri College of Agriculture, cites a feeding test at the Missouri experiment station in which an animal that had been stunted by poor feeding to such an extent that it weighed only 200 pounds at twelve months of age, gained 341 pounds during the second year. Only 5.6 pounds of grain for each pound of gain made were required on this steer stunted during the first twelve months. A steer that had been generously fed during the first twelve months of his life gained only 500 pounds during the second twelve months, and this gain was more expensive than the gain made on the stunted steer. The amount of grain required to make a pound of gain on the well-fed steer was 9.8 pounds.

It is certain that stunting an animal even for so long a period as twelve months does not destroy its capacity to grow.

GAINS MADE FEEDING LAMBS

Result of Test at South Dakota Station to Determine Value of Alfalfa and Prairie Hay.

The best gains ever secured at the South Dakota experiment station in feeding lambs was in an experiment to determine the comparative value of alfalfa and prairie hay with the same kind of a grain ration.

The grain ration consisted of a mixture of 100 pounds of oats, 100 pounds of shelled corn and 25 pounds of oil meal.

Each lot was started on one pound per head of the mixture daily, and increased until they were receiving two and one-tenths pounds per head of grain daily, and what hay they would eat.

The average daily gain per head for the lot that received the alfalfa hay was .51 of a pound, while with the lot that received the prairie hay, the average daily gain per head was .38 of a pound.

DAILY EXERCISE FOR STOCK

Horses and Mules Should Be Given Run for an Hour or So in Lot Adjoining Stables.

Horses and mules should have good daily carding and regular exercise. If there is nothing for them to do remove their shoes and give them a run for an hour or so in a well-fenced lot adjoining the stables.

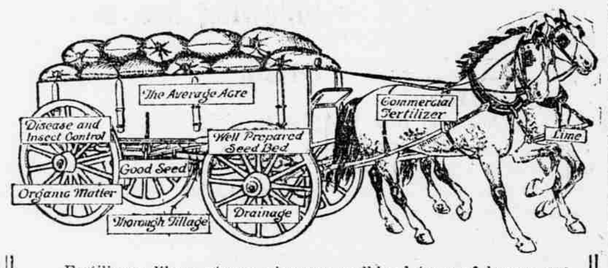
The best and safest fence for pasture is of stout woven wire, rail or a combination board and smooth wire. Barbed wire should not be used, as it is dangerous.

SUNLIGHT IS BIG ESSENTIAL

Provision for Admission of Maximum Amount of Light in Barn Should Not Be Overlooked.

No barns or shelters for any kind of animals should ever be constructed without making ample provision for the admission of the maximum amount of sunlight. Such buildings should have a southern exposure, if possible. This will provide extra warmth in the winter time and the sunlight which is thus permitted to enter the building will destroy many disease germs.

A VALUABLE TEAM



Fertilizers, like a strong, vigorous, well-bred team of horses, are most profitable to the farmer when conditions are nearest perfect for their work; when they are suited to their task, and when they are properly handled.

Study the picture closely. Is the importance of organic matter, proper tillage, sufficient drainage, the use of lime, the proper handling of the seed, or the control of disease and insect pests exaggerated?

The stronger the running gear, the bigger the load of wheat the wagon will carry.

The better attention paid to the preparation of the soil, the handling of the seed, and the control of diseases, the bigger the yield of two-dollar-a-bushel wheat commercial fertilizers will produce, if they are applied in sufficient quantity and are of suitable analysis.

When you take up the lines the next time and drive what you consider the best team of horses in your county, remember that you keep that team because it is profitable. Remember, also, that it would not be profitable if it got beyond your control. Still further, remember the fact that the larger amount of work you can get the team to do, the more profitable it is to you. At the same time, think of the close analogy that fertilizers for your wheat, corn, potatoes and other crops bear to your team of horses. The better you feed the crops, the larger the yield. Recall, furthermore, the fact that your good team could not do its valuable work if any of the important parts of the wagon were broken. Fertilizers, in the same way, will attain their highest results and be most profitable when you have done everything within your power to make conditions most perfect for crop production.

High priced crops are worth help.

Make conditions best for the fertilizer "team" and it will return largest profits to you this year. Top-dress your winter wheat with fertilizer.

IMPROVING THE 1918 WHEAT CROP

Top Dress With Manure and Fertilizer and Increase the Yield.

The bureau of crop estimates of the United States department of agriculture reports an increase of four per cent in the acreage of fall-sown wheat, as compared with that sown in the fall of 1916. This would be highly encouraging, were it not for the fact that much of this is in poor condition, is in fact ten per cent under the average condition of the last ten years. Unless the coming spring is remarkably favorable for the development of winter wheat, the 1918 crop will be even smaller than that of 1917.

We have but one more chance for increasing our 1918 bread-grain crop, and this is by top-dressing either with fertilizer or with manure. In the latter case the work may be done at once, the manure being spread thinly and evenly, preferably with the manure spreader. Manure so used protects the wheat from winter injury, and at the same time stimulates growth in the cold weather of early spring. Every day gained at this season is just so much crop insurance.

When fertilizer is used it must be applied just as growth starts in the early spring. It is then that available plant food is most needed, and when it is most efficient in causing the plant to "tiller out" and increase the number of seed-bearing stems. Fertilizer used at this time may change crop failure to crop success, and is certain to give results when the wheat was sown late, or when it was sown with an insufficient supply of plant food.

FOOD PRODUCTION ENDANGERED BY FREIGHT EMBARGOES.

During the last weeks of December, 1917, absolute embargoes were placed on rail shipments of phosphate rock from Florida. This fact was widely reported in the daily press, yet few people realized its true significance. If the embargo continues it will force the closing of many fertilizer factories all over the United States, and will render impossible maximum production of food crops so badly needed in these times of war. An embargo of this kind, necessary though it be, vitally affects the mainspring of our national welfare.

The first big effect of such an embargo is to cause the closing of all departments of many fertilizer plants. However, the big effect of this embargo on rock phosphate movement is on the farm itself, where fertilizer is needed for the work of food production. Labor is short, greater production can only be secured through higher acre yields produced by using what labor we have on land so fertilized as to make it productive. In this light, then, a continued embargo on rock phosphate, however necessary it may be from the transportation viewpoint, is a great national calamity. It affects both our agricultural production and the ability of our country to win the war speedily and certainly.

What can you do to help? Many things!

Order spring supplies now—fertilizers and farm machinery; feeds and seeds; lime, and other needed materials.

Unload as soon as the car arrives, taking from the car whenever possible.

Do your part now, and trust that the other man will also do his. This is the spirit of true co-operation, and is the only solution of difficulties caused by freight congestion.

MAKING MANURE MORE VALUABLE

Manure Re-enforced With Fertilizer Gives Largest Yields.

With the prospect of a decided shortage of plant food supplies, stable manure takes on increased importance in crop production. It has not yet reached the point where it is worth from $6 to $10 per ton, as some would have us believe, but it is certainly worth enough to justify better care and attention than it has been getting.

So much has been written about the saving of manure, but so much yet remains to be done by the farmer that we are led to believe the recommendations have been too complicated to follow, or else that the gain has not been worth the price. There are, however, three things which may easily be done by any farmer, to increase the crop producing value of stable manure on his farm from 50 to 100 per cent, and these without any material increase either in labor or capital.

The Canadian field reports find a ton of fresh manure a little more valuable than a ton of rotted manure (made from two tons of fresh manure). Therefore, we get twice as much value from manure when we haul it direct to the field, instead of throwing it into a barnyard to rot.

The Pennsylvania agricultural experiment station found that manure spread at the rate of six tons per acre returns $3.29 per ton in crop increase, while when spread at the rate of ten tons per acre it returns only $2.29 per ton.

Re-Enforce With Fertilizer.

Manure is weak in the element phosphorus, and benefits immensely from the addition of phosphoric acid. By adding about one-half a sack of acid phosphate to each ton of manure, the Ohio experiment station increased the crop producing value of a ton of manure at least 50 per cent.

The plant food in ordinary manure is only about three-fifths as effective as the plant food of commercial fertilizer. For this reason manure should always be supplemented with available fertilizer so that crops may be given a quick start in the early spring.

By handling manure as it should be handled—supplementing with available fertilizer and re-enforcing it with acid phosphate—we will be able to make our present supply of fertilizer and manure more effective in the production of food crops.

ASSIST GOVERNMENT BY ORDERING ALL YOUR FARM SUPPLIES NOW.

The great need of the railroads just now is cars, and more cars—that it may care for normal traffic and assure the extra burden of troop and munition movements. But it cannot get more cars over night, or tomorrow, or the next day. Thus it must try to make its cars carry more—make one car do the work which two cars did before the war. This is where you can help.

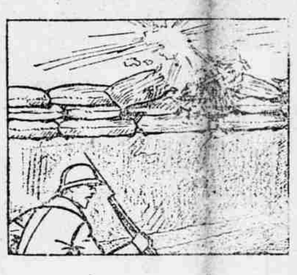
When a dealer gets an order for farm supplies, machinery, feed or coal, he holds it until he gets more to go with it—if he has time. If you get your orders in early this year, you will make the dealer happy, facilitate transportation, aid the government, and help yourself by insuring delivery before the time when goods are needed.

TRENCH WARFARE DEMANDS BURLAP

To Save Burlap, Fertilizers and Other Commodities Must Be Shipped in Large-Sized Bags.

Jute for burlap comes from India—that is it used to. Just now this all important fiber either stays in India, or on its way to our shores gets no further than the European battlefront. Because of the resulting shortage fertilizers have to be shipped in large bags, ten to the ton, instead of 12, 16, and even 20 to the ton, as was formerly the common practice. To men unaccustomed to handling these heavier packages this means inconvenience and even actual hardship.

Using the larger bags economizes burlap—in fact saves 15 million yards for more urgent needs. What farmer would not be glad to share this inconvenience if he but realized that one of the big reasons for the burlap shortage is that our soldier boys are



using it in the trenches? Every soldier on going to the firing line takes with him one or more burlap bags. During the day, as the embankments are worn down by continuous shell fire, these bags are filled with earth or sand and then at nightfall are thrown up to repair the parapet. Here it is not a question of convenience—it is a question of necessity. The boys in the trenches must have first call on the burlap supplies.

The larger bags even have certain advantages. When emptied they may be used to carry crops from the field to the bin or crib; a 200-pound bag holds two bushels of potatoes. Very few men ever carry two sacks of potatoes in a single trip, even though each sack contains but one bushel. On the other hand most men can easily carry two bushels when they are in the same bag, and hence do this part of their work more rapidly. So it happens that the large bag becomes a very real labor saver, and this at a time when all farmers must cut corners to make most productive a labor supply all too short.

There are other advantages for the larger bag. It is much more useful as wrapping material than are the smaller sizes. It can be cut up for packing purposes, and used in other ways. Once a farmer becomes accustomed to this size he never returns to the smaller sizes. Whole states in the south have for years used nothing but the 200-pound size.

REDUCING SOFT CORN LOSSES.

The 1917 corn crop is very poor in quality. Much of it is soft, so soft that it fails to keep in storage. A recent crop report from the United States Department of Agriculture indicates an average condition of 75.2 for the 1917 corn crop over against an 84 per cent average for the last ten years; this valuing mature corn at 100.

Early frosts and cold, late growing seasons are responsible for much of the soft corn loss in the corn belt. We cannot control the weather but by proper cultural methods, we can hasten maturity of the corn by from one to two weeks, thus ripening the crop before the arrival of disastrous frosts. Cutting short the growing season of the crop seven to fourteen days will in the majority of cases, make nine ears out of ten marketable instead of two ears out of three as during the past season.

Proper Varieties Essential.

One great cause for the large amount of soft corn produced is the planting of varieties which are not adapted to climatic conditions under which they are grown. In our fervor for bigger crops, we have often gone South for large yielding varieties which require longer growing seasons than prevail in most sections of the corn belt. Most of these varieties are large-eared and weigh heavily because they contain a larger percentage of moisture than our northern grown varieties, and thus mislead the farmer but not the grain dealer, for much of the grading is done on a basis of moisture content.

Balanced Plantfood Insures Crops.

Perhaps the biggest reason for the large amount of soft corn produced in 1917 and in other years, is the lack of sufficient available plantfood in the soil to give the crop a quick start to enable it to take advantage of every growing day and to properly fill the ears and hasten maturity. All other conditions being equal, the use of sufficient amounts of a well-balanced, available plantfood will shorten the growing season of a corn crop from ten to fourteen days. This ten to fourteen days often means a difference between a crop of marketable corn and a crop which is hardly worth harvesting.

BE PATRIOTIC—TRADE AT HOME!